

A RESOLUTION to proclaim the third Saturday of each June as  
“Destroyer Escort Day” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, destroyer escorts were small, powerful and fast ships with impressive capabilities; touted as “trim, but deadly”. These workhorses of the United States Navy and United States Coast Guard numbered more than 500 between 1942 and 1973; and

WHEREAS, the 1000 ton destroyer escorts were capable of performing anti-submarine duties, radar pickets, and shore bombardments, in addition to rescuing downed pilots and survivors of other ill-fated ships; and

WHEREAS, destroyer escorts played a major role in World War II, destroying 58 enemy submarines and numerous enemy aircraft; one destroyer escort, the U.S.S. England, sank six subs in twelve days while another ship, the U.S.S. Farguhar, was the American vessel that sank the last German sub prior to V-E Day; and

WHEREAS, more than 150,000 of our Navy and Coast Guard men manned these small but magnificent ships, including approximately 5,000 dedicated Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, eleven destroyer escorts have been named for Tennesseans in honor of their valiant and meritorious service: the USS Cates (DE-763) for William Finnie Cates of Drummonds; the USS Cockrill (DE-398) for Dan Robertson Cockrill of Nashville; the USS Daniel (DE-335) for Hugh Spencer Daniel of Chattanooga; the USS French (DE-367) for Neldon Theo French of Benton County; the USS Gandy (DE-764) for Andrew Jackson Gandy of Chattanooga; the USS Lamons (DE-743) for Kenneth Tafe Lamons of Greeneville; the USS Naifeh (DE-352) for Alfred Naifeh of Covington; the USS Raymond (DE-341) for Reginald Marbury Raymond of Sewanee; the USS Vance (DE-387) for Joseph Williams Vance of

Memphis; the USS Charles R. Ware (DE-547) for Charles R. Ware of Knoxville; and the USS John Willis (DE-1027) for John Harlan Willis of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association was formed in 1975 to honor and promote the comradeship of the men who served on these ships and to perpetuate the memory of the brave individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice in carrying out their duties; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-State Chapter in Tennessee is an active group, who with other chapters across the United States, helped to bring back the USS Slater (DE-766) from Greece to the New York Harbor where it has been renovated and now serves as a medium for destroyer escort heritage and lore; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to recognize the thousands of valiant men, many of whom were Tennesseans, who served gallantly on the destroyer escorts through World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and it is appropriate that we should pause each year to reflect upon these great vessels of the past and their crews who fought for freedom on the oceans and seas of the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby proclaim the third Saturday of each June, "Destroyer Escort Day" in Tennessee in honor of these historical vessels and the thousands of brave sailors who served on them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.

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